Color. Above, light yellowish-brown, without dorsal spots, but with a conspicuous black vertebral line running the whole length of the body and tail, as well as the usual tail bands. Head and neck black, with a pale yellowish line along each upper lip, interrupted below the eye. Belly coral pink. Tail below, more or less thickly spotted with black.

No. 6 is intermediate between the two forms. The usual dorsal dots are present as well as the conspicuous vertebral line.

Mr. Boulenger (*Cat. Snakes*, and *Fauna Malay Pen.*) gives the number of ventrals shields as varying from 205-247. The difference in the number in the Siamese specimens is noteworthy.

Major Wall (*Poison. Terrest. Sn. Brit. Ind.*) in his supplementary characters of identification says :—Anterior sublinguals touch 4 infra-labials. The difference in the Siamese specimens will again be noted.

Typhlops nigroalbus found in the stomach of No. 4 has not yet been recorded from Siam, although I have seen specimens from other parts of the country.

I am indebted to Mr. Boulenger for identifying this species.

MALCOLM SMITH.

July, 1914.

No. XIII.—SLUGGISHNESS OF A PYTHON.

While working on a hilltop of some 250 metres elevation recently, the coolies discovered a python curled up in a small cavity formed by big, loose boulders. The cavity was too small for a man to enter and since the gall bladder was required to make medicine, they finally decided to build a fire of glowing embers in the cavity and roast him out. The snake, however, preferred to roast rather than face his enemies, who were waiting round the entrance with boulders and axes. After some half hour's time he was so stupefied with smoke that a noose was cast over his head and he was ignominiously hauled out—offering little resistance.

It was found that the body was burnt in several places and the skin blistered. The python measured just over 4 metres and was

as thick as a man's thigh, though it did not appear to have fed recently.

K. G. GAIRDNER.

March, 1914.

[From the description of this snake given us by Mr. Gairdner, it was no doubt *Python reticulatus*. Eds.]

No. XIV.—ON THE BREEDING HABITS OF *HYPSIRHINA ENHYDRIS* AND *HERPETON TENTCAULATUM* (THE TENTACLE SNAKE).

Hypsirhina enhydris. The following observations confirm and supplement what is already known about the breeding habits of this species.

I obtained a female in the month of December showing enlarged ovarian follicles, in which the embryos, 10 in number, could be just discerned. I received another gravid female in April, containing 18 young ones, their development in this case being well advanced. The mother was a very large specimen measuring 680 mm. in length. A third was caught in July, which gave birth to a single still-born young one, probably the last of her brood. The other records, quoted by Major Wall in his article on this snake in the *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society*, are as follows :—" Colonel Evans came across a pair *in copula* in Lower Burma on October 16th. * * * * Another was taken by Theobald near Rangoon in a gravid condition in March."

By piecing all this evidence together, it would appear, therefore, that intercourse takes place at the end of the rainy season, about October, and that the young are born when the rains have again set in, about June or July.

The single young one, referred to above, measured 180 mm. in length, and resembled the parent in every way except that, as is usually the case, the coloration and markings were more vivid.

Herpeton tentaculatum. In the *Catalogue of Snakes in the British Museum*, the number of scales across mid-body in this snake is given as 37. An examination of a number of specimens has shown me that this is not always the case, but that they may vary from 35 to 39. I have recently been able to examine a brood of 13 young ones, which shows this variation very fully. Unfortunately they did not come to